

Onondaga language

Onondaga language (*Onoñda ’gegá ’ nigaweño ’deñ ’*, IPA: [onũdaʔgeɡáʔ niɡawẽnoʔdẽʔ], literally "Onondaga is our language") is the language of the Onondaga First Nation, one of the original five constituent tribes of the League of the Iroquois (Haudenosaunee).

This language is spoken in the United States and Canada, primarily on the reservation in central New York state, and near Brantford, Ontario.

Contents
Usage and revitalization
Phonology
Morphology
Verbal morphology
Verbal template
Pre-pronominal prefixes
Modal pre-pronominal prefixes
Non-modal pre-pronominal prefixes
Repetitive
Cislocative
Translocative
Dualic
Pronominal prefixes
C-Stem
A-Stem
E-Stem
Ē-Stem
O-Stem
Q-Stem
I-Stem
Reflexive and semireflexive
Nominal Morphology
Noun incorporation
Word order
Question formation
See also
References
External links

Onondaga	
<i>On̄da ’gegá ’</i> / <i>Onoñda ’gegá ’</i>	
Native to	Canada, United States
Region	Six Nations Reserve, Ontario, and central New York state
Ethnicity	1,600 Onondaga people (2007) ^[1]
Native speakers	ca. 50 (in 2007), increasing numbers since 2010 ^{[2][1]}
Language family	Iroquoian - Northern - Lake Iroquoian - Five Nations Onondaga
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	ono
Glottolog	onon1246 (http://glottolog.org/resource/lan guoid/id/onon1246) ^[3]

Usage and revitalization

The Onondaga Nation Language Center (called *Ne ’ Eñhadiweñnayeñde ’nha ’*, or "they will get to know the language") has been engaged in language revitalization efforts since 2010. Children learn the Onondaga language at Onondaga Nation School, and classes are also available for adults. In September 2015, it was announced that fifteen adults would enter a full-time language immersion class in Onondaga, after which they would become teachers of the language.^[4]

Phonology

This table shows the (consonant) phonemes that are found in Onondaga.

Consonant phonemes				
	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Postalveolar / Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Plosive</u>	t		k	ʔ
<u>Affricate</u>		dʒ		
<u>Fricative</u>	s			h
<u>Sonorant</u>	n	j	w	

The two plosives, /t/, /k/ are allophonically voiced to [d] and [g] before vowels and resonants (the bottom row of the chart labelled 'sonorant') and are spelled ⟨d⟩ and ⟨g⟩ in this case. There is considerable palatalization and affrication in the language.

Onondaga has five oral vowels, /i e o ə æ/ (/æ/ is sometimes represented orthographically as ⟨ä⟩), and two nasal vowels, /ẽ/ and /ũ/. The nasal vowels, following the Iroquoianist tradition, are spelled with ogoneks in the scholarly literature and in Ontario (⟨ẽ⟩ and ⟨õ⟩ or ⟨ũ⟩). In New York, they are represented with a following ⟨ñ⟩ (⟨eñ⟩ and ⟨oñ⟩). Vowels can be both short and long. When vowel length derives from the now lost consonant *r, it is phonemic. Vowel length is written with a following colon, ⟨:⟩ or raised dot (half colon) ⟨·⟩.

Morphology

Onondaga is a polysynthetic language, exhibiting a great deal of inflectional and derivational morphology on the verbal forms (including noun incorporation). Nominal forms have less morphology. Additionally, there are particles, which are monomorphemic.

Verbal morphology

Onondaga verbs can be divided into three main classes according to their aspectual properties (discussed below). These are the active verbs, motion verbs, and stative verbs. We must distinguish between tense and aspect. Tense refers to when the event takes place, either in the past, the present or the future. Aspect refers to the event itself, such as whether it is finished or ongoing or occurs repeatedly.

There are four aspects in Onondaga. The first is the habitual aspect (HAB). This aspect is used to refer to an event that takes place repeatedly or on an ongoing basis. The second is the punctual aspect (PUNC) (also known as perfective aspect). This aspect refers to an entire event in its completeness. When used in the past tense, the event is described as "over and done-with." It cannot describe an event that is interrupted or incomplete. The third aspect is the stative (STAT) (also known as imperfective) refers to an event that is ongoing or incomplete or, if it occurs in the past tense, that has some bearing on the present. Finally, there is the purposive aspect (PURP), which refers to imminent action and usually implies intent or volition on the part of the subject. Active verbs can appear with any of the first three aspects. Motion verbs can appear with any of all four aspects. Stative verbs can only appear with the stative aspect.

Verbal template

A typical Onondaga verb consists of several morphemes (components). The following chart outlines the order of the morphemes. Obligatory morphemes appear in boldface, and optional morphemes are in standard font. Note that some of the "optional" morphemes are obligatory with certain verb roots. The obligatory morphemes, however, must appear on each and every single verb.

pre-pronominal prefixes	pronominal prefixes	reflexive or semireflexive	incorporated noun	verb root	derivational suffixes	aspect suffix	expanded aspect suffix
-------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------	-------------------	------------------	-----------------------	----------------------	------------------------

Each of the following sections outlines the shapes that these morphemes can take.

Pre-pronominal prefixes

Modal pre-pronominal prefixes

The prepronominal prefixes express a variety of concepts and ideas. The first concept is modality, which expresses the degree of urgency, certainty or likelihood of the event. There are three modal prefixes in Onondaga. The modal prefixes only appear with the punctual aspect. They also appear if there is a modalizer suffix. The first of these is commonly called the future modal prefix (FUT). This prefix expresses events that have not yet taken place at the time the speaker is talking. The second is the factual modal prefix (FACT). This prefix indicates that the speaker knows the event happened for a fact. It typically has a past tense reading (since we are normally only sure about events that happened in the past). The third is optative modal prefix (OPT). This prefix expresses the idea that the event should or ought to take place. It is also used to express untrue events or events that might have taken place but have not. Here are some examples.

(36)	a.	əhayé:twa? e- ha- FUT- 3.SG.M.AG- 'He will plant it.'	yətw- a? plant- PUNC
	b.	waʔhayé:twa? waʔ- ha- FACT- 3.SG.M.AG- 'He planted it.'	yə:tw- a? plant- PUNC
	c.	ahayé:twa? a- ha- OPT- 3.SG.M.AG- 'He might plant it.'	yə:tw- a? plant- PUNC

The following chart lists forms of the three modal prepronominal prefixes and indicates when to use which form.

Mood	Pre-pronominal Prefix	When used	Example
factual (FACT)	waʔ	default	waʔhayé : twaʔ waʔ-ha-yé : tw-aʔ FACT-he-plant-PUNC 'He planted it.'
	weʔ	any 2nd person or 1st person inclusive (except 2.SG.AG)	weʔdniyé : twaʔ weʔ-dni-yé : tw-aʔ FACT-1.DU.INCL.AG-plant-PUNC 'You and I planted it.'
	q	optionally replaces sequence waʔwa	qgyé : twaʔ waʔ-wak-yé : tw-aʔ FACT-1.SG.PAT-plant-PUNC 'It planted me.' (ex, a monster)
future (FUT)	ɛ	does not change	ɛhayé : twaʔ ɛ-ha-yé : tw-aʔ FUT-he-plant-PUNC 'He will plant it.'
optative	a / a :	default (/a-/ and /a: -/ are in free variation)	ahayé : twaʔ a-ha-yé : tw-aʔ OPT-he-plant-PUNC 'He might plant it.'
	ae	any 2nd person or 1st person inclusive (except 2.SG.AG)	aedniyé : twaʔ ae-dni-yé : tw-aʔ OPT-1.DU.INCL.AG-plant-PUNC 'You and I might plant it.'
	aq	optionally replaces sequence /awa/	aqgyé : twaʔ a-wak-yé : tw-aʔ OPT-1.SG.PAT-plant-PUNC 'It might plant me.' (ex, a monster)

Non-modal pre-pronominal prefixes

In addition to the modal prefixes, there is also a set of prefixes that express a variety of concepts, some of which do not have a clearly distinct meaning, rather their meaning varies depending on context. The list of these includes repetitive, cislocative, dualic, translocative, partitive, coincident, contrastive, and negative.

Repetitive

The repetitive morpheme adds the meaning of doing something again or repeating some-thing. The basic form of the repetitive morpheme is /s-/. Here are some examples. Example (37) has the prepronominal prefix /sa-/, which is a combination of both repetitive and factual mood. Example (38) has the prepronominal prefix /ɛs-/, which is a combination of repetitive and future. These contrast with example (39), which does not have the repetitive morpheme.

(37) sahayé: twaʔ
sa- ha- yetw- aʔ
REP.FACT- 3.SG.M- plant-PUNC
'He planted it again.'

(38) ɛshayé: twaʔ
ɛs- ha- yetw- aʔ
REP.FUT- 3.SG.M- plant-PUNC
'He will plant it again.'

(39) waʔhayé: twaʔ
waʔ- ha- yetw- aʔ
FACT- 3.SG.M- plant-PUNC
'He planted it.'

Cislocative

The cislocative (CLOC) morpheme is used to indicate movement toward the speaker. It can also mean that a particular event is pinpointed back in time. In some cases, the meaning of the cislocative is unpredictable. Some of these are listed below. There are two forms of the cislocative.

/t-/ default

/di-/ used with any 2nd person or 1st person inclusive, except 2.SG.AG

Translocative

The translocative (TLOC) morpheme is used to indicate movement away from the speaker. The form of the translocative is /he-/

Dualic

The dualic (DUC) does not have a specific meaning. The form of the dualic is /de-/, but changes when it appears in combination with other pronominal prefixes. Whenever it appears with a verb stem, it changes the meaning in unpredictable ways. Usually, however, there is some notion of there being two of something or of some reciprocal activity such as trading. Also, some verb roots must appear with the dualic pronominal prefix. In examples (41) and (42), the dualic prefix is obligatory. In example (43), the dualic prefix adds the meaning of becoming two pieces.

(41) deyoqshéthwas
de- yq- ashéthw-as
DUC- 3.SG.F- cry-HAB
'She is crying'

(42) dehahahiya?ks
de- ha- ahah- iya?k- s
DUC- 3.SG.M- road- cross- HAB
'He crosses a road.'

(43) dehá:ya?ks
de- ha- ya?k- s
DUC- 3.SG.M- break- HAB
'He breaks it into two.'

(44) há:ya?ks
ha- ya?k- s
3.SG.M- break- HAB
'He breaks it off.'

Pronominal prefixes

There are three series of pronominal prefixes in Onondaga. There is a transitive series, used with transitive verbs. Intransitive verbs use either the agent series or the patient series. The choice between the latter two is often complex, as we will see. The phonological shape of the pronominal prefix depends on the identity of the following sound. This gives rise to several series of pronominal prefixes, which are labelled according to the following segment. These include the c-series (for pronominal prefixes which precede a consonant), the a-series (for pronominal prefixes which precede /a/), the e-series, ɛ-series, o-series, ɔ-series, and i-series. Finally, the pronominal prefixes inflect for person, number and gender. We discuss each of these in turn.

Onondaga distinguishes three persons: first (I or we), second (you) and third (he, she, it or they). The first person can be either exclusive (EXCL), which excludes the listener, or inclusive (INCL), which includes the listener.

Here, when John says we, it does not include the person he's talking to. In other words, Mary doesn't get to go to the movies. This use of we is called the first person exclusive. English does not make a distinction between inclusive and exclusive we but Onondaga does. Consider the following two words. The pronominal prefix /dn-/ indicates a first person dual inclusive subject, and the pronominal prefix /agn-/ indicates a first person dual exclusive subject.

(45) we?dnek
we?- dn- ek- Ø
FACT- 1.DU.INCL- eat- PUNC
'We two (you and I) ate it.'

(46) wa?agnek
wa?- agn- ek- Ø
FACT- 1.DU.EXCL- eat- PUNC
'We two (someone else and I) ate it.'

Three numbers are also distinguished in Onondaga: singular (for one entity, SG), dual (for two entities, DU), and plural (for three or more entities, PL). In the glosses, singular is marked with SG, dual is marked with DU, and plural is marked with PL.

(47) wa?sek
wa?- s- ek- Ø
FACT- 2.SG- eat- PUNC
'You (sing.) ate it.'

(48) we?snek
we?- sn- ek- Ø

FACT- 2.DU- eat- PUNC
'You two ate it.'

(49) we?swek
we?- sw- ek- Ø
FACT- 2.PL- eat- PUNC
'You all ate it.'

Additionally, Onondaga distinguishes three genders, which are realized in the third person only. The first is masculine (M), which is used to refer to male humans and certain animals, either alone or in a group. The second is feminine (F). This is used to refer to female humans, certain animals, or some unknown person. It is sometimes called the feminine-indefinite. For groups of people that contain both men and women, the masculine is used. The third is neuter (N), which is used to refer to most animals and inanimate objects. In older texts, the neuter is used to refer to human females in certain circumstances, although this usage is no longer common. See Abrams (2006: 17) for more discussion. (Abbott, 1984 also discusses two feminine genders in Oneida.) Here are some examples.

(50) a. wa?ek
wa?- e- k- Ø
FACT- 3.SG.F- eat- PUNC
'She ate it.' OR 'Someone ate it.'

b. wa?wek
wa?- we- k- Ø
FACT- 3.SG.N- eat- PUNC
'Something/it ate it.'

c. wa?hek
wa?- he- k- Ø
FACT- 3.SG.M- eat- PUNC
'Something/it ate it.'

Finally, we observe that there are two series of prefixes for intransitive verbs, the agent series (AG) and the patient series (PAT). As a general rule, verbs which involve active, purposeful movement or activity on the part of the subject are conjugated with the agent series. Verbs which involve involuntary action or states are conjugated with the patient series. There are so many exceptions to this generalization, however, that one has to simply learn for each intransitive verb whether it takes the agent or the patient series. There is an additional rule for the intransitive verbs that take the agent series. When these verbs appear with stative aspect, they use the patient series rather than the agent series. This rule does not have any exceptions.

There are six classes of conjugations which depend on the initial sound of the following morpheme (i.e., the first sound of the verb root or of the incorporated noun if there is one).

C-Stem

The following chart lists the pronominal prefixes for stems that begin with a consonant. Note that (y) or (w) in brackets disappears when preceded by a pre-pronominal prefix.

Intransitive, Agent-series

	1st person exclusive	1st person inclusive	2nd person	3rd person
singular	k-	N/A	s-	ha- (MASC); (y)e- (FEM, INDEF or NEUT)
dual	(y)agni-	dni-	sni-	hni- (MASC); gni- (FEM)
plural	(y)agwa-	dwa-	swa-	hadi- (MASC); gqdi- (FEM)

Intransitive, Patient-series

	1st person	2nd person	3rd person
singular	(w)ak-	sa-	ho- (MASC); ((y)a)go- (FEM, INDEF or NEUT)
dual	(y)qgni-	sni-	hodi- (MASC); (y)odi- (FEM)
plural	(y)qgwa-	swa-	

Transitive Series

Patient (to right) Agent (below)	1.SG	1.DU	1.PL	2.SG	2.DU	2.PL	3.NEUT	3.SG.MASC	3.FEM/INDEF.SG	3.FEM.DU/PL	3.MASC.DU/PL
1.SG				gq-	gni-	gwa-		he-	khe-		
1.DU.EXCL				gni-	gni-	gwa-		shagni-	(y)akhni-		
1.PL.EXCL				gwa-	gwa-	gwa-		shagwa-			
1.DU.INCL								shedni-	(y)ethi-		
1.PL.INCL								shedwa-			
2.SG	sk-	sgni-	sgwa-					hes-	she-		
2.DU	sgni-	sgni-	sgwa-					shesni-	(y)etchi-		
2.PL	sgwa-	sgwa-	sgwa-					sheswa-			
3.SG.MASC	hak-	shqgni-	shqgwa-	hya-	shesni-	sheswa-		hqwa-	shago-		
3.SG.FEM/INDEF	(y)qk-	(y)qkhi-		(y)esa-	(y)etchi-		gqwa-	hqwa-	(y)qdat-	gqwadi-	hqwadi-
3.DU/PL.FEM									((y)a)godi-		
3.DU.PL.MASC									shagodi-		

A-Stem

The following chart lists the pronominal prefixes for stems that begin with a consonant. Note that (y) or (w) in brackets disappears when preceded by a pre-pronominal prefix.

Intransitive, Agent-series

	1st person exclusive	1st person inclusive	2nd person	3rd person
singular	g-	N/A	(h)s-	hqhR- (MASC); yqw- (FEM, INDEF or NEUT)
dual	(y)agy-	dy-	jy-	hy- (MASC); gy- (FEM)
plural	(y)agw-	dw-	sw-	hqw- (MASC); gqw- (FEM)

Intransitive, Patient-series

	1st person	2nd person	3rd person
singular	(w)ag-	s-	how- (MASC); ((y)a)gow- (FEM, INDEF or NEUT)
dual	(y)qgy-	jy-	hon- (MASC); (y)on- (FEM)
plural	(y)qgw-	sw-	

Transitive Series

Patient (to right) Agent (below)	1.SG	1.DU	1.PL	2.SG	2.DU	2.PL	3.NEUT	3.SG.MASC	3.FEM/INDEF.SG	3.FEM.DU/PL	3.MASC.DU/PL
1.SG				gqy-	gy-	gw-		hey-	khey-		
1.DU.EXCL				gy-	gy-	gw-		shagy-	(y)akhiy-		
1.PL.EXCL				gw-	gw-	gw-		shagw-			
1.DU.INCL								shedy-	(y)ethy-		
1.PL.INCL								shedwa-			
2.SG	sg-	sgy-	sgw-					hes-	shey-		
2.DU	sgy-	sgy-	sgw-					shejy-	(y)etchiy-		
2.PL	sgw-	sgw-	sgw-					shesw-			
3.SG.MASC	hag-	shqgy-	shqgw-	hy-	(s)hejy-	(s)hesw-		hqw-	shagow-		
3.SG.FEM/INDEF	(y)qg-	(y)qkhiy-		(y)es-	(y)etchiy-		gqw-	hqw-	(y)qdad-	gqwan-	hqwadiy-
3.DU/PL.FEM									((y)a)godiy-		
3.DU.PL.MASC									shagodi-		

E-Stem

The following chart lists the pronominal prefixes for stems that begin with a consonant. Note that (y) or (w) in brackets disappears when preceded by a pre-pronominal prefix.

Intransitive, Agent-series

	1st person exclusive	1st person inclusive	2nd person	3rd person
singular	g-	N/A	(h)s-	h- (MASC); yaq(y)- (FEM, INDEF or NEUT)
dual	(y)agn-	dn-	sn-	hn- (MASC); gn- (FEM)
plural	(y)agw-	dw-	sw-	hən- (MASC); gən- (FEM)

Intransitive, Patient-series

	1st person	2nd person	3rd person
singular	(w)ag-	s-	haw- (MASC); ((y)a)gaw- (FEM, INDEF or NEUT)
dual	(y)əgn-	sn-	hon- (MASC); (y)on- (FEM)
plural	(y)əgw-	sw-	

Transitive Series

Patient (to right) Agent (below)	1.SG	1.DU	1.PL	2.SG	2.DU	2.PL	3.NEUT	3.SG.MASC	3.FEM/INDEF.SG	3.FEM.DU/PL	3.MASC.DU/PL
1.SG				gəy-	gn-	gw-		hey-	khey-		
1.DU.EXCL				gn-	gn-	gw-		shagn-	(y)akhiy-		
1.PL.EXCL				gw-	gw-	gw-		shagw-			
1.DU.INCL								shedn-	(y)ethy-		
1.PL.INCL								shedwa-			
2.SG	sg-	sgn-	sgw-					hes-	shey-		
2.DU	sgn-	sgn-	sgw-					shejy-	(y)etchiy-		
2.PL	sgw-	sgw-	sgw-					shesw-			
3.SG.MASC	hag-	shəgn-	shəgw-	hy-	(s)hesn-	(s)hesw-		həw-	shagaw-		
3.SG.FEM/INDEF	(y)əg-	(y)əkhiy-		(y)es-	(y)etchiy-		gəw-	həw-	(y)ədad-	gəwan-	həwadiy-
3.DU/PL.FEM									((y)a)godi-		
3.DU/PL.MASC									shagodi-		

Ē-Stem

The following chart lists the pronominal prefixes for stems that begin with /ə/. Note that (y) or (w) in brackets disappears when preceded by a pre-pronominal prefix.

Intransitive, Agent-series

	1st person exclusive	1st person inclusive	2nd person	3rd person
singular	g-	N/A	(h)s-	həhR- (MASC); yəw/yag- (FEM, INDEF or NEUT)
dual	(y)agy-	dy-	jy-	hy- (MASC); gy- (FEM)
plural	(y)agw-	dw-	sw-	həw- (MASC); gən- (FEM)

Intransitive, Patient-series

	1st person	2nd person	3rd person
singular	(w)ag-	s-	how- (MASC); ((y)a)gow- (FEM, INDEF or NEUT)
dual	(y)əgy-	jy-	hon- (MASC); (y)on- (FEM)
plural	(y)əgw-	sw-	

Transitive Series

Patient (to right) Agent (below)	1.SG	1.DU	1.PL	2.SG	2.DU	2.PL	3.NEUT	3.SG.MASC	3.FEM/INDEF.SG	3.FEM.DU/PL	3.MASC.DU/PL
1.SG				gqy-	gy-	gw-		hey-	khey-		
1.DU.EXCL				gy-	gy-	gw-		shagy-	(y)akhiy-		
1.PL.EXCL				gw-	gw-	gw-		shagw-			
1.DU.INCL								shedy-	(y)ethy-		
1.PL.INCL								shedwa-			
2.SG	sg-	sgy-	sgw-					hes-	shey-		
2.DU	sgy-	sgy-	sgw-					shejy-	(y)etchiy-		
2.PL	sgw-	sgw-	sgw-					shesw-			
3.SG.MASC	hag-	shqgy-	shqgw-	hy-	(s)hejy-	(s)hesw-		hqw-	shagow-		
3.SG.FEM/INDEF	(y)qg-	(y)qkhiy-		(y)es-	(y)etchiy-		gqw-	hqw-	(y)qdad-	gqwan-	hqwadiy-
3.DU/PL.FEM									((y)a)godiy-		
3.DU.PL.MASC	hqg-								shagodi-		

O-Stem

The following chart lists the pronominal prefixes for stems that begin with a consonant. Note that (y) or (w) in brackets disappears when preceded by a pre-pronominal prefix.

Intransitive, Agent-series

	1st person exclusive	1st person inclusive	2nd person	3rd person
singular	g-	N/A	(h)s-	hqhR- (MASC); yqw- (FEM, INDEF or NEUT)
dual	(y)agy-	dy-	jy-	hy- (MASC); gy- (FEM)
plural	(y)agw-	dw-	sw-	hqw- (MASC); gqw- (FEM)

Intransitive, Patient-series

	1st person	2nd person	3rd person
singular	(w)ag-	s-	how- (MASC); ((y)a)gow- (FEM, INDEF or NEUT)
dual	(y)qgy-	jy-	hon- (MASC); (y)on- (FEM)
plural	(y)qgw-	sw-	

Transitive Series

Patient (to right) Agent (below)	1.SG	1.DU	1.PL	2.SG	2.DU	2.PL	3.NEUT	3.SG.MASC	3.FEM/INDEF.SG	3.FEM.DU/PL	3.MASC.DU/PL
1.SG				gqy-	gy-	gw-		hey-	khey-		
1.DU.EXCL				gy-	gy-	gw-		shagn-	(y)akhiy-		
1.PL.EXCL				gw-	gw-	gw-		shagy-			
1.DU.INCL								shedn-	(y)ethiy-		
1.PL.INCL								shedy-			
2.SG	sg-	sgn-	sgy-					hes-	shey-		
2.DU	sgn-	sgn-	sgy-					shesn-	(y)etchiy-		
2.PL	sgy-	sgy-	sgy-					shejy-			
3.SG.MASC	hag-	shqgn-	shqgy-	hyay-	(s)hesn-	(s)hejy-		hqy-	shaga-		
3.SG.FEM/INDEF	(y)qg-	(y)qkhiy-		(y)es-	(y)etchiy-		gqw-	hqw-	(y)qdad-	gqwan-	hqwadiy-
3.DU/PL.FEM									((y)a)godiy-		
3.DU.PL.MASC	hqg-								shagodi-		

Q-Stem

The following chart lists the pronominal prefixes for stems that begin with a consonant. Note that (y) or (w) in brackets disappears when preceded by a pre-pronominal prefix.

Intransitive, Agent-series

	1st person exclusive	1st person inclusive	2nd person	3rd person
singular	g-	N/A	(h)s-	ḥhR- (MASC); ỵw- (FEM, INDEF or NEUT)
dual	(y)agy-	dy-	jy-	hy- (MASC); gy- (FEM)
plural	(y)agw-	dw-	sw-	ḥw- (MASC); g̣w- (FEM)

Intransitive, Patient-series

	1st person	2nd person	3rd person
singular	(w)ag-	s-	how- (MASC); ((y)a)gow- (FEM, INDEF or NEUT)
dual	(y)ogy-	jy-	hon- (MASC); (y)on- (FEM)
plural	(y)ogw-	sw-	

Transitive Series

Patient (to right) Agent (below)	1.SG	1.DU	1.PL	2.SG	2.DU	2.PL	3.NEUT	3.SG.MASC	3.FEM/INDEF.SG	3.FEM.DU/PL	3.MASC.DU/PL
1.SG				g̣y-	gy-	gw-		hey-	khey-		
1.DU.EXCL				gy-	gy-	gw-		shagy-	(y)akhiy-		
1.PL.EXCL				gw-	gw-	gw-		shagw-			
1.DU.INCL								shedy-	(y)ethy-		
1.PL.INCL								shedwa-			
2.SG	sg-	sgy-	sgw-					hes-	shey-		
2.DU	sgy-	sgy-	sgw-					shejy-	(y)etchiy-		
2.PL	sgw-	sgw-	sgw-					shesw-			
3.SG.MASC	hag-	sḥgy-	sḥgw-	hy-	(s)hejy-	(s)hesw-		ḥw-	shagow-		
3.SG.FEM/INDEF	(y)og-	(y)okhiy-		(y)es-	(y)etchiy-		g̣w-	ḥw-	(y)odad-	g̣wan-	ḥwadiy-
3.DU/PL.FEM									((y)a)godi-		
3.DU.PL.MASC									shagodi-		

I-Stem

The following chart lists the pronominal prefixes for stems that begin with a consonant. Note that (y) or (w) in brackets disappears when preceded by a pre-pronominal prefix.

Intransitive, Agent-series

	1st person exclusive	1st person inclusive	2nd person	3rd person
singular	g-	N/A	(h)s-	ḥhR- (MASC); ỵw- (FEM, INDEF or NEUT)
dual	(y)agy-	dy-	jy-	hy- (MASC); gy- (FEM)
plural	(y)agw-	dw-	sw-	ḥw- (MASC); g̣w- (FEM)

Intransitive, Patient-series

	1st person	2nd person	3rd person
singular	(w)ag-	s-	how- (MASC); ((y)a)gow- (FEM, INDEF or NEUT)
dual	(y)ogy-	jy-	hon- (MASC); (y)on- (FEM)
plural	(y)ogw-	sw-	

Transitive Series

Patient (to right) Agent (below)	1.SG	1.DU	1.PL	2.SG	2.DU	2.PL	3.NEUT	3.SG.MASC	3.FEM/INDEF.SG	3.FEM.DU/PL	3.MASC.DU/PL
1.SG				gqy-	gy-	gw-		hey-	khey-		
1.DU.EXCL				gy-	gy-	gw-		shagy-	(y)akhiy-		
1.PL.EXCL				gw-	gw-	gw-		shagw-			
1.DU.INCL								shedy-	(y)ethy-		
1.PL.INCL								shedwa-			
2.SG	sg-	sgy-	sgw-					hes-	shey-		
2.DU	sgy-	sgy-	sgw-					shejy-	(y)etchiy-		
2.PL	sgw-	sgw-	sgw-					shesw-			
3.SG.MASC	hag-	shqgy-	shqgw-	hy-	(s)hejy-	(s)hesw-		hqw-	shagow-		
3.SG.FEM/INDEF	(y)qg-	(y)qkhiy-		(y)es-	(y)etchiy-		gqw-	hqw-	(y)qdad-	gqwan-	hqwadiy-
3.DU/PL.FEM									((y)a)godiy-		
3.DU.PL.MASC	hqq-								shagodi-		

Reflexive and semireflexive

This section discusses reflexive sentences such as "John saw himself," and "We like ourselves," and reciprocal sentences such as "We like each other." The basic form of the reflexive marker (REFL) is /atat-/ and it appears right after the pronominal prefix and before the incorporated noun, if any. The reflexive is typically found only on transitive verbs, but because there is only one participant in the event, we use the intransitive series of pronominal prefixes. Here's an example of a reflexive and a regular (non-reflexive) transitive for comparison.

(56)	a.	wa?gadadaehséthwa? wa?- k- FACT- 1.SG.AG- 'I kicked myself.'	atat- REFL-	aehséthw- kick-	a? PUNC
	b.	wa?sgaehséthwa? wa?- sk- FACT- 2.SG.AG:1.SG.PAT- 'You kicked me.'		aehséthw- kick-	a? PUNC

In the non-reflexive transitive form there is a pronominal prefix, /sk-/ that indicates the subject ('you') and the object ('me'). In the reflexive form, there is only one participant in the act of kicking ('me'), so the intransitive form of the pronominal prefix is used, /k-/.

A reflexive action is something that you do to yourself. A reciprocal action is something people do to each other. Reciprocals must have at least two people involved. They are formed with the reflexive marker and the dualic prepronominal prefix discussed in section 3.4.1.1.2.4. Here is an example.

(57)	wa?thyadadyódyahde? wa?- t- hy- FACT- DUC- 3.DU.AG- 'They two made each other laugh.'	atat- REFL-	yqtya- laugh-	ht- CAUS-	e? PUNC
------	--	----------------	------------------	--------------	------------

The semireflexive (SRFL) appears in a variety of circumstances that are not easy to pin down. The usual form of the semireflexive is /at-/, but certain verb roots take different forms. Listed here are some of the more common situations in which the semireflexive is used.

First, when a person's own body part is the object of the action a semireflexive is normally used. Here is an example with and without a semireflexive. Again notice that the form with the semireflexive uses the intransitive pronominal prefix while the form without the semireflexive uses the transitive pronominal prefix.

(58)	a.	wa?gadnentshagetsgwa? wa?- k- FACT- 1.SG.AG- 'I raised my arm.'	at- SRFL-	nentsh- arm-	a- JOIN-	getsgw- raise-	a? PUNC
	b.	wa?khenentshagetsgwa? wa?- khe- FACT- 1.SG.AG:3.SG.F.PAT- 'I raised her arm.'		nentsh- arm-	a- JOIN-	getsgw- raise-	a? PUNC

Second, the semireflexive is used with verbs of grooming.

(59)	John	wa?hadya?dohae? John wa?- ha- John FACT- 3.SG.M.AG- 'John washed (himself).'	at- SRFL-	ya?t- body-	ohae- wash-	? PUNC
------	------	---	--------------	----------------	----------------	-----------

Finally, the semireflexive is used to describe events or actions that are internally caused or spontaneous.

(60)	a.	wa?wadehnhóhwak wa?- w-	at-	ehnhohw-	aR-	k
------	----	----------------------------	-----	----------	-----	---

	FACT-	3.SG.NT.PAT-	SRFL-	door-	apply-	PUNC
	'The door closed.'					
b.	odqhwejiyá?gi:h					
	o-	at-	qhwejy-	ya?k-	ih	
	3.SG.NT.PAT-	SRFL-	earth-	break-	STAT	
	'The earth has caved in.'					

wa?dyɔdetgwɛ?da?né·ga·?
wa?-d-yɔ-adet-gwɛ?d-?nega·-a?
factual.mode-change.of.state-she-self-belly-burst-at.one.point.in.time
"she blabbed, she revealed a secret" [literally, 'she burst her belly']

The constituent morphemes are separated by hyphens in the second line of the example. Each one is translated, as closely as possible, in the third line. It is important to understand that none of the component morphemes is a separate word, since they cannot be uttered, or understood, in isolation.

A second way in which linguists classify the morphology of languages is in terms of how the morphemes of a word combine. This distinction is between languages that are fusional and languages that are agglutinative. Fusion occurs in two ways: a single morpheme may have two or more functions (or meanings) in a given word or contiguous morphemes may affect each other's shape in such a way that it is difficult to segment the word into morphemes. A language is agglutinative if the morphemes composing a word each carries its own meaning and can be easily segmented from its neighbor. Onondaga is fusional (in the second sense of that term). Fusion is especially prevalent at the boundary between prefixes and the stem. Here certain phonological processes take place which change the shapes of one or both contiguous morphemes. For example:

gɛdé·ih
ga-idɛ·-ih
neuter.agent.prefix-help.out-stative.aspect
"it is helping."

Languages are also classified in terms of the preeminent morphological processes they manifest. In Onondaga the two major morphological processes are prefixing and suffixing. Prefixes and suffixes are bound morphemes, that is, they are morphemes that cannot occur in isolation. Onondaga verbs must, minimally, begin in a pronominal prefix and inflect for aspect. For example:

hayéthwas
ha-yéthw-as
third.person.singular.masculine.agent-plant-habitual.aspect
"he plants"

Nouns must, minimally, begin in a nominal prefix and end in a noun suffix. For example:

ganá?jya?
ga-na?jy-a?
neuter.agent-pail-noun.suffix
"pail"

Nominal Morphology

A basic noun is composed of the following three morphemes in this order: noun prefix, root, and noun suffix.

According to Woodbury (2003), nouns in Onondaga are categorized into two main classes. These are non-human and human. The inanimate nouns are further divided into natural and man-made. The prefix (NPRE) on the noun depends on these classes. For inanimate nouns, the prefix is either /o-/ for natural objects or /ka-/ for man-made objects. The noun forming suffix also depends on the noun class. It is /a?/ for non-human nouns and /-h/ for human nouns.

Noun incorporation

Noun incorporation is a process of compounding in which two stems, a noun and a verb stem, are combined into a new stem that is inflected with verbal morphology and that functions as a verb. Nouns occupying the semantic roles or thematic relations, of patient, theme, factitive theme, location, goal, path, or instrument are eligible for incorporation. Of these, it is nouns designating semantic patients and themes that are most frequently incorporated. Semantic agents, causers, and beneficiaries are not eligible for incorporation.

The first example shows that the nominal root -nɛh- "corn" has been incorporated into the verbal complex forming a single word. The second example shows the noun /onɛha?/ ('corn') as a separate word and preceded by the particle ne?, a particle which marks a following word or phrase as a nominal.

wa?hanɛhayéthwa?
wa?-ha-nɛh-yéthw-a?
factual.mode-he-corn-plant-punctual.aspect
'he planted corn' [literally, 'he corn-planted'].

wa?hayéthwa? ne? onɛha?
wa?-ha-yéthw-a? ne? o-nɛh-a?
factual.mode-he-plant-punctual.aspect nominal.particle it-corn-noun.suffix
'he planted (the) corn'

Noun incorporation is a highly productive process in Onondaga. However, its productivity is an attribute of individual nouns and verbs. Every noun and every verb is lexically marked in terms of its incorporation characteristics. Some nouns incorporate frequently, that is, they can combine with many different verbs, others almost never. Among the verbs that can incorporate—and some do not incorporate at all—there is a continuum of productivity. At their most productive, verbs can incorporate one of any number of nouns, in fact, some verbs can only occur together with an incorporated noun. Verbs at their most unproductive can incorporate only a single noun. Between these extremes are additional types: verbs that can incorporate only a restricted set of nouns; verb and noun combinations that are highly idiomatic—these often denote conventionalized activities (e.g., English 'he information-gathered')—so that separating the noun, though interpretable, is perceived as inappropriate.

The use of noun incorporation is governed by various discourse factors. It is often used as a way of backgrounding information.

Word order

Word order is typically free in Onondaga (though see question formation below). It depends on various discourse factors.

Question formation

Wh-questions begin with the interrogative word:

gaɛ nú tganɥhsá·yɛʔ
gaɛ nú t-ga-nɥhs-yɛ-ʔ
where place here-it-house-be.lying-stative.aspect
"Where is the house?"

wadɛʔ nihsa·dyé·haʔ
wadɛʔ ni-hs-adyé·-haʔ
what thus-you-do-habitual.aspect
"What are you doing?"

Yes-no questions are formed by appending the question-particle to the questioned item:

Sɛdáʔwih khɛh.
sa-idáʔw-ih khɛh.
you-be.asleep-stative.aspect question.particle
"Are you asleep?"

See also

- Onondaga (tribe)

References

- Onondaga (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/ono/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
 - Moses, Sarah (September 13, 2015). "Onondaga Nation's urgent mission: Saving our language" (http://www.syracuse.com/empire/index.ssf/2015/09/onondaga_nation_leaders_members_work_to_revitalize_their_language.html). *Syracuse.com*. Retrieved 2015-10-03.
 - Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Onondaga" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/onon1246>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
 - Moses, Sarah (September 13, 2015). "Onondaga Nation's urgent mission: Saving our language" (http://www.syracuse.com/empire/index.ssf/2015/09/onondaga_nation_leaders_members_work_to_revitalize_their_language.html). *Syracuse.com*. Retrieved 2015-10-03.
- Abrams, Percy. 2006. *Onondaga Pronominal Prefixes*, Department of Linguistics, State University of New York at Buffalo: Ph. D. Dissertation.
 - Chafe, Wallace L. 1970. *A Semantically Based Sketch of Onondaga*. Indiana University Publications in Anthropology and Linguistics. Memoir 25 of the International Journal of American Linguistics.
 - Michelson, Karin. 1988. *A Comparative Study of Lake-Iroquoian Accent*. Dordrecht: Kluwer.
 - Woodbury, Hanni. 1975a. "Onondaga Noun Incorporation: Some Notes on the Interdependence of Syntax and Semantics." *International Journal of American Linguistics* 41 (1):10-20.
 - Woodbury, Hanni. 1975b. *Noun Incorporation in Onondaga*, Department of Linguistics, Yale University: Ph. D. Dissertation.
 - Woodbury, Hanni. 2002. *Onondaga-English/English-Onondaga Dictionary*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
 - Woodbury, Hanni, 2018. *A Reference Grammar of the Onondaga Language*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

External links

- Language Geek: Onondaga (<http://www.languagegeek.com/rothinonhsonni/onondaga.html>)

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Onondaga_language&oldid=951414177"

This page was last edited on 17 April 2020, at 01:27 (UTC).

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.